THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The status paper, *inter alia* mentions that "effective border management is vital to maintenance of internal security".

(b) to (e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition No. 131/2000 in the matter of Sarbanand Sonowal Vs Union of India, held that the Illegal Migrants (Determinations by Tribunals) Act, 1983 and the Rules made thereunder, are ultra vires and struck it down. The Hon'ble Supreme Court *inter-alia*, directed that all cases shall be decided in the manner provided in the Foreigners Act, the Rules made thereunder and the procedure prescribed under the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964. The Government was also directed to constitute sufficient number of Tribunals under the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, to effectively deal with cases of foreigners, who have illegally come from Bangladesh or are illegally residing in Assam. Keeping in view the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, 21 additional Foreigners Tribunals have been established and now 32 Foreigners Tribunals are functioning in the State of Assam.

The Government has also taken various other measures to curb illegal influx into the country, which, *inter-alia*, include strengthening of Border Security Force (BSF) and equipping them with modern and sophisticated equipments/gadgets; reduction in gaps between border outposts; intensification of patrolling; and a comprehensive programme of construction of border roads and border fencing/floodlighting etc. Besides, administrative instructions are also issued to the State Governments and UT Administrations from time to time to take sustained action to detect foreign nationals, including Bangladeshi nationals, staying illegally in the country, and for their immediate deportation. A total of 83050 Bangladeshi nationals have been deported from India between the years 2003-06. This is an ongoing process.

(f) The Government of Assam has reported that preliminary works for updating the National Register of Citizens (NRC), 1951 have been started. The data entry of the available electoral rolls upto 1971 and the NRC as available have been taken up. The State Government has been advised to work out the modalities in this regard.

Filling up of vacancies in CRPF

*300. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 4511 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th May, 2007 and state:

(a) the number of vacancies in various cadres filled in Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) upto 30th November, 2007, particularly where they were even more than 40 per cent of the sanctioned strength; and

(b) the specific steps taken during the year to remove bottlenecks in the process of recruitments and promotions so that the vacancies do not affect the efficiency of the Force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The number of vacancies of Group B (GOs) and Group B (NGOs) were exceeding 40% of the sanctioned strength. The number of vacancies in these cadres as on 31.3.2007 and filled upto 30.11.2007 are as under:—

Group	Vacancies as on 31/3/07	Vacancies filled during 01.04.07 to 30.11.07
Gr-B (GOs)	87	14
Gr-B (NGOs)	1595	43

(b) Recruitment rules of Group B (Gazetted Officer and Group B Non-Gazetted Officers) have been revised vide notification dated 23.5.07, GSR No. 379 (E) to 385 (E) to facilitate filling the vacancies which are promotion posts.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Protection of jobs in traditional export industries

1630. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has evolved any mechanism to preserve and protect the jobs in traditional export industries such as handicrafts, textiles, etc. from the adverse impact of relentless rising of rupee and simultaneously continuing the promotion of Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

(b) if so, the details of the mechanism that is proposed to be initiated and the number of exporters to be benefited and the export earnings that are to be accrued to the traditional industries; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) To ensure that the job losses in these sectors are minimized, Government announced a set of measures aimed at providing relief to the exporters. These include reduction in the interest rate on pre shipment and post shipment credit, increase in drawback and DEPB rates, a select set of services for refund/exemption of service taxes, interest on certain EEFC balances and increasing the list of products under Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojna and also raising the revenue ceiling under the Scheme by Rs. 300 crores, accelerated reimbursement of terminal excise duty and central sales tax to exporters, provision of payment of interest for delays in re-imbursement of Terminal Excise Duty and Central Sales Tax. It is expected that these measures would, to some extent, neutralize the impact of rupee appreciation.

Manufacture of paints

1631. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has laid down any norms for manufacturing of paints and if so, the details thereof;